

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

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DRAFTED BY COM/OED/MEPD/JRHEAGEN/MJJ

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COM/OED/MEPD/JMSANDS, DIRECTOR

STATE/AF/W:D.K. RAMSEY

----- 084205

R 191954Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, DM

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT - NEW AIRPORT AT COTONOU

REF:(A) COTONOU A-58 7/3/74

(B) STATE A-5934 7/26/74

REF B REQUESTED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
DAHOMY'S PLAN FOR THIS AIRPORT. AIRWAYS ENGINEERING
CORP. OF WASHINGTON, D. C. HAS REQUESTED THE FOLLOWING
SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

1. WHICH OFFICE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY IS IN
RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OF THE PROJECT?

2. WOULD THEY BE INTERESTED IN A LOAN FOR THE
FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING, WHICH
WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH A REPORT UPON WHICH DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION FINANCING COULD BE OBTAINED?(SUCH AN EXIM
LOAN WOULD PROBABLY BE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS AT AN
AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST OF 8-9 PERCENT AND COULD BE
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ROLLED INTO A LONGER TERM LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION.)

3. WOULD AIRWAYS BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE STUDY?

4. WHAT IS THE TIME LIMIT ON SUBMITTAL OF A PROPOSAL?

5. CAN THE WORK ELEMENTS OF THE STUDY BE MODIFIED TO
FIT EXIM BANK REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
FINANCING?

6. WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE DAHOMEY GOVERNMENT
TOWARDS AMERICAN FIRMS? (WE UNDERSTAND FROM THEIR
EMBASSY HERE THAT AMERICAN FIRMS ARE ACTUALLY PREFERRED
FOR THIS JOB, BUT WOULD LIKE CONFIRMATION OF THIS). OR IS THE
SITUATION AN UPHILL BATTLE AGAINST FRENCH INFLUENCE AND PRO-
POSALS?

7. DOES OUR EMBASSY RECOMMEND THAT WE PURSUE THIS
FURTHER? IF SO, WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD WE TAKE IN ORDER
TO GET OUR QUALIFICATIONS AND OUR PROPOSAL FAVORABLY
CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF DAHOMEY.

ANY INFORMATION RESPONSIVE TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE
APPRECIATED.
KISSINGER

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